

CLAIMS:

1. A method of transmitting video signals, comprising the steps of:

- receiving an image of an original video signal;
- modifying an image area of said image to create a modified video signal;
- 5 - transmitting the modified video signal;

characterized in that the method includes the step of transmitting an auxiliary signal defining replacement video information for said image area of the modified video signal.

10 2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said replacement video information is the image area of the original signal.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the auxiliary signal further includes data defining the position and/or size of the replacement video information.

15 4. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the video signal is encoded into a bitstream and the image area is represented by a sub-series of bits, characterized in that the replacement video information is similarly encoded and represented by a substantially same number of bits as the modified image area.

20 5. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the auxiliary signal is accommodated in user data fields of the bitstream.

25 6. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the video signal is predictively encoded and the step of modifying is applied to pictures which are not referred to by other pictures.

7. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the modification of the image area identifies copy protection status information.

30 8. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the image is modified in such a manner that the modified video signal pattern is not reproduced upon playback by conventional analog video recorders.

9. An arrangement for transmitting a video signal, comprising:

- means for receiving an image of an original video signal;
- means for modifying an image area of said image to create a modified video signal;
- means for transmitting the modified video signal;

characterized in that the arrangement includes means for transmitting an auxiliary signal

5 defining a sub-image to replace the modified image area of the modified video signal.

10. A method of decoding a digital video signal, comprising the steps of:

- receiving a main bitstream representing an image of a video signal;
- receiving an auxiliary bitstream representing replacement video information for an image
- 10 area of said image;
- replacing a sub-series of bits of said first bitstream representing said image area by said replacement video information to obtain a modified bitstream; and
- decoding said modified bitstream.

15 11. A method of transcoding a digital video signal, comprising the steps of:

- receiving a main bitstream representing an image of a video signal;
- receiving an auxiliary bitstream representing replacement video information for an image
- area of said image;
- replacing a sub-series of bits of said first bitstream representing said image area by said
- 20 replacement video information to obtain a modified bitstream; and
- transmitting said modified bitstream.

12. A method as claimed in claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein the auxiliary bitstream is accommodated in user data fields of the first bitstream.

13. A method as claimed in claim 10 ~~or 11~~, further comprising the step of deriving the position and/or size of said image area from data included in the auxiliary bitstream.

14. A method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

- 30 – determining whether the image area represented by said sub-series of bits of said first bitstream identifies copy protection status information; and
- enabling recording of the modified bitstream if said determination is positive.

15. An arrangement for decoding a digital video signal, comprising:

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- means for receiving a main bitstream representing an image of a the video signal;
- means for receiving an auxiliary bitstream representing replacement video information for an image area of said image;
- means for replacing a sub-series of bits of said first bitstream representing said image area
- 5 by said replacement video information to obtain a modified bitstream; and
- means for decoding said modified bitstream.

16. An arrangement for transcoding a digital video signal, comprising:

- means for receiving a main bitstream representing an image of a the video signal;
- 10 – means for receiving an auxiliary bitstream representing replacement video information for an image area of said image;
- means for replacing a sub-series of bits of said first bitstream representing said image area by said replacement video information to obtain a modified bitstream; and
- means for transmitting said modified bitstream.

17. An arrangement as claimed in claim 16, further comprising:

- means for determining whether the image area represented by said sub-series of bits of said first bitstream identifies copy protection status information; and
- means for enabling recording of the modified bitstream if said determination is positive.

18. A video signal, comprising:

- a main bitstream representing an image of the video signal, an image area of said video signal being encoded into a sub-series of bits;
- an auxiliary bitstream representing replacement video information for said image area, the
- 25 replacement video information being encoded in a similar manner, and represented by a substantially same number of bits as said sub-series.